

What is claimed is:

1. An occupant restraint system, comprising: ✓  
a first sensor unit which detects a state of wearing a seatbelt system;  
a second sensor unit which detects a state of operating the seatbelt  
5 system; and  
a controller which performs a control to change a time range to determine  
activation and expansion of a occupant restraint equipment upon a vehicle  
collision in accordance with signals from the first sensor unit and the second  
sensor unit,  
10 wherein when a state detected by the first sensor unit is a state of not  
wearing the seatbelt system, the controller performs a control to set a mode to a  
stopping mode which has a time range to determine the activation and expansion  
of the occupant restraint equipment upon a vehicle collision, and  
when a state detected by the first sensor unit is a state of wearing the  
15 seatbelt system and a state detected by the second sensor unit is a state of  
operating the seatbelt system, the controller performs a control to set the mode to  
an operating mode which has a smaller time range to determine the activation and  
expansion of the occupant restraint equipment upon the vehicle collision than that  
in the state of not wearing the seatbelt system.  
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2. An occupant restraint system according to claim 1,  
wherein the controller performs a control to delay the activation and  
expansion of the occupant restraint equipment, in the operating mode.
- 25 3. An occupant restraint system according to claim 1,  
wherein the occupant restraint equipment is at least one of an airbag  
system and a pretensioner.
4. An occupant restraint system according to claim 1,  
30 wherein the occupant restraint equipment is at least one of an airbag

system and a set of double pretensioners.

5. An occupant restraint system, comprising: ✓

first sensor means for detecting a state of wearing a seatbelt system;

5 second sensor means for detecting a state of operating the seatbelt system; and

control means for performing a control to change a time range to determine activation and expansion of a occupant restraint equipment upon a vehicle collision in accordance with signals from the first sensor means and the  
10 second sensor means,

wherein when a state detected by the first sensor means is a state of not wearing the seatbelt system, the control means performs a control to set a mode to a stopping mode which has a time range to determine the activation and expansion of the occupant restraint equipment upon a vehicle collision, and

15 when a state detected by the first sensor means is a state of wearing the seatbelt system and a state detected by the second sensor means is a state of operating the seatbelt system, the control means performs a control to set the mode to an operating mode which has a smaller time range to determine the activation and expansion of the occupant restraint equipment upon the vehicle  
20 collision than that in the state of not wearing the seatbelt system.

6. A method for restraining an occupant, comprising:

detecting a state of wearing a seatbelt system; ✓

detecting a state of operating the seat belt system;

25 performing a control to set a mode to a stopping mode which has a time range to determine the activation and expansion of an occupant restraint equipment upon a vehicle collision when the seatbelt system is in a state of not being worn, and to set the mode to an operating mode which has a smaller time range to determine the activation and expansion of the occupant restraint  
30 equipment upon the vehicle collision than that in the state of not wearing the

seatbelt system when the seatbelt system is in a state of being worn and operated.